

Message Four

Abiding in Christ by Living in the Mingled Spirit

Scripture Reading: John 15:1, 4-5; 2 Cor. 3:17; 1 Cor. 15:45b; 6:17; 1 Tim. 4:7; 2 Tim. 1:6-7; Rom. 8:4-6; Heb. 4:12

I. To abide in the Lord as the true vine is to be one spirit with Him and to live in the mingled spirit—John 15:1, 4-5; 1 Cor. 6:17:

- A. The Christian life is a life of abiding in the Lord as the true vine—John 15:1, 4-5; 1 John 2:24, 27-28; cf. 4:1.
- B. The mutual abiding in John 15:4-5 is the practice of being one spirit with the Lord.

II. The focus of God's economy is the mingled spirit, the divine Spirit mingled with the human spirit; whatever God intends to do or accomplish is related to this focus—Eph. 3:9, 5; 1:17; 2:22; 4:23; 5:18; 6:18:

- A. The essence of the New Testament is the two spirits—the divine Spirit and the human spirit—mingled together as one spirit—1 Cor. 6:17.
- B. The expression one spirit indicates the mingling of the Lord as the Spirit with our spirit:
 - 1. To be one spirit with the Lord implies that we are in Him and that He is in us—John 15:4-5.
 - 2. We and He have been mingled organically to become one in life—14:19.
- C. The spirit, which is the mingling of our spirit and the Lord's Spirit into one spirit, is both the Spirit of the Lord and our spirit—Rom. 8:4; 2 Cor. 3:17; 1 Cor. 15:45b; 6:17.
- D. All our spiritual experiences, such as our fellowship with the Lord, our prayer to Him, and our living with Him, are in this mingled spirit—Rom. 1:9; 7:6.

III. We need to learn to exercise our spirit in our daily walk—1 Tim. 4:7; 2 Tim. 1:6-7; Rom. 8:6; Heb. 4:12:

- A. We must build up a habit of exercising our spirit—1 Tim. 4:7:
 - 1. The word exercise implies forcing; if we Christians want to be strong and want to grow in the Lord, we must force ourselves to use our spirit.
 - 2. Whenever you are in hard situations, you have to force yourself to exercise our spirit; this makes you a different person.
- B. Second Timothy 1:6-7 indicates that we need to fan our spirit into flame:
 - 1. There is fire in our regenerated spirit, which is indwelt by the Holy Spirit; actually, we may say that our spirit is the fire.
 - 2. If we want to fan our spirit into flame, we need to open up our mouth, open up our heart, and open up our spirit to call on the name of the Lord.
 - 3. Paul reminded Timothy to fan into flame into flame the gift of God within him, saying that "God has not given us a spirit of cowardice, but of power and of love and of sobermindedness" (v. 7):
 - a. God has given us a spirit in the center of our being surrounded by the three parts of the soul—the will, the emotion, and the mind; power belongs to our will, love belongs to our emotion, and sobermindedness belongs to our mind.
 - b. Second Timothy 1:6-7 shows us that we saved ones have the capital to live the Christian life and the church life; this capital is the God-given spirit, which is surrounded by the power of our will, by the love of our emotion, and by the sobermindedness of our mind; these three helpers are surrounding our spirit, not to depress us, but rather to uplift us and help us.
 - 4. "Whenever there is the fanning, there is always a battle with Satan. While the fanning of the fire is going on, the fire department is fighting to quench the fire...Things will happen in our environment that can quench us. At that time we have to fight. We have to declare the facts. We have to fan our spirit into flame. Then we will be the highest persons, the super persons"—The Collected Works of Witness Lee, 1993, vol. 1, p. 185.

- C. We need to set our mind on the spirit—Rom. 8:6:
 - 1. The way to be in the spirit is to set our mind on the spirit, making our mind one with the spirit—vv. 6, 9a.
 - 2. We have to bridle our mind and set it on our spirit so that it may come under the control of our spirit—v. 6; cf. 1 Pet. 1:13:
 - a. We should not separate our mind from our spirit; instead, we should let our spirit become the spirit of our mind—Eph. 4:23.
 - b. When our spirit and our mind are blended together, we can praise without worry; we can be full of peace without any anxiety; we can be at rest without any agitation; otherwise, we will have insomnia, worry, anxiety, fanciful thoughts, and wild imaginations.
 - 3. We must learn to be simple, to turn to the spirit, to set our mind on the spirit, and to walk according to the spirit; this is the key, the secret, to having a spiritual walk, a walk in the spirit—Rom. 8:4-6.
- D. We need to discern our spirit from our soul—Heb. 4:12:
 - 1. The enemy's strategy is always to mix our spirit up with our soul; whenever such mixing is there, the spirit loses and the soul wins.
 - 2. We should always be on the alert to discern anything that is not of the spirit but of the soul; then we will remain in the spirit all the time; this is to exercise, to use, to employ, our spirit.

IV. Ultimately, the Bible requires only one thing of us—that we walk according to the mingled spirit—Rom. 8:4:

- A. The key to everything is found in the wonderful Spirit who is in our regenerated spirit and who has become one spirit with our spirit—1 Cor. 6:17.
- B. To live in the spirit is to let Christ fill and saturate us until He permeates our whole being and is thereby expressed through us—Eph. 3:16-17; Col. 3:4, 10-11.
- C. All the things that happen to us test us whether we are living in the spirit or in the self—Rom. 8:28.
- D. The best way to silence Satan is to live in the spirit—Rev. 12:11:
 - 1. There is only one place that Satan cannot invade—our spirit.
 - 2. Whether or not we are under Satan's authority is not determined by the things we do; rather, it is determined by whether we are in the spirit or in the flesh—Gal. 5:16-17.
 - 3. As long as we remain in the mingled spirit, we will be kept, and Satan will have no way with us—1 John 5:4, 18-21.

V. The key point of the entire Christian life is that Christ as the all-inclusive life-giving Spirit lives in our spirit, and as the Spirit He mingles Himself with our spirit to make these two spirits one—1 Cor. 15:45b; Rom. 8:16; 1 Cor. 6:17:

- A. In our mingled spirit there is no problem, so there is no need of solutions; whatever we need is in our spirit—Phil. 1:19; 4:23.
- B. We need to forget about our weaknesses, our shortcomings, our failures, and everything of the self and set our mind on the spirit, that is, remain in the spirit by always paying attention to our spirit, using our spirit, and caring for our spirit—Rom. 8:6.
- C. We need to be burning in spirit by praying in order to spend more and more time in the presence of the Lord; when we are genuinely burning in spirit, we are beside ourselves and are fools because of Christ—Matt. 6:6; 2 Cor. 5:13; 1 Cor. 4:10.
- D. Even though our surroundings and circumstances may be miserable, we ourselves must be joyful in spirit, living in the reality of the kingdom of God—Rom. 14:17; cf. Dan. 3:19-20, 25; Acts 16:23-25; Eph. 4:1.
- E. When we are burning and joyful in spirit, we enjoy God, reign as kings in life, walk in newness of life, and serve in newness of spirit—Rom. 5:10-11, 17; 6:4; 7:6.